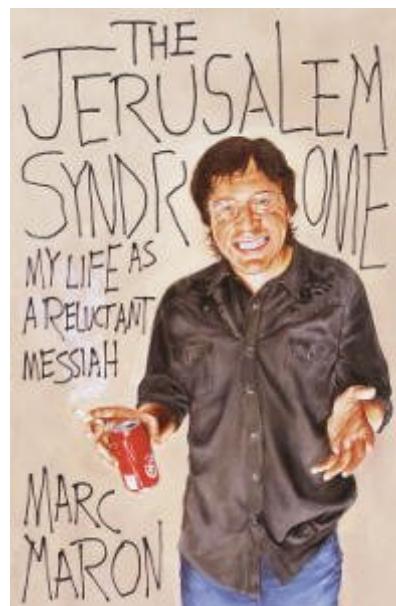


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The Jerusalem Syndrome: My Life As A Reluctant Messiah



Synopsis

By the author of Attempting Normal and host of the podcast WTF with Marc Maron, The Jerusalem Syndrome is The Gospel according to Maron: a spiritual memoir of your average hyperintelligent, ultraneurotic, superhip Jewish standup comedian and seeker. The Jerusalem Syndrome is a genuine psychological phenomenon that often strikes visitors to the Holy Land—the delusion that they are suddenly direct vessels for the voice of God. Marc Maron seems to have a distinctly American version of the Jerusalem Syndrome, which has led him on a lifelong quest for religious significance and revelation in the most unlikely of places. Maron riffs on Beat phenomena with its sacred texts, established rituals, and prescribed pilgrimages. He spends some time exploring the dark side of things, as his obsessions with cocaine (known to Maron as “magic powder”), conspiracy theories, and famous self-destructive comedians convince him that the gates of hell open beneath Los Angeles. As his quest matures, he reveals the religious aspects of Corporate America, pontificating on the timeless beauty of the Coca-Cola logo and even taking a trip to the Philip Morris cigarette factory, where the workers puff their own products with a zealot-like fervor. The culmination of Maron’s Jerusalem Syndrome comes during his own tour of the Holy Land, where, with Sony camcorder glued to his eye socket, he comes face-to-face with his own ambiguous relationship to Judaism and reaches the brink of spiritual revelation—or is it nervous breakdown? Marc Maron has considerably adapted and expanded his praised one-man show to craft a genuine literary memoir. Whether he’s a genuine prophet or a neurotic mess, he’ll make you laugh as you question the meaning of life. Marc Maron is blazingly smart, rapid-fire, and very funny . . . A brilliant and relentless screed. —David Rakoff, author of Fraud —Marc Maron is the first crazy person I’ve ever envied. In his brainiac-memoir-meets-hilarious-travelogue, he demonstrates the ability to tell a story with an extraordinary provocative intelligence that is regrettably shared by few. —Janeane Garofalo, comedian

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

File Size: 366 KB

Print Length: 192 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0767908104

Publisher: Crown Archetype; 1st edition (March 5, 2002)

Publication Date: March 5, 2002

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B000FC1IVS

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #353,389 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #179 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Actors & Entertainers > Comedians #186 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Religion #608 in Kindle Store > Whispersync for Voice > Humor & Entertainment

Customer Reviews

Wow! What a tremendous book! I've been a Marc Maron fan, like, forever--like BEFORE he was on Conan's show. But I waited til now for some reason to read his autobiography, his other book, "Attempting Normal", is more like a gateway drug for the Marc uninitiated--it didn't suck, but it was somewhat familiar territory for me. In this book Marc talks about his youth in Albuquerque, New Mexico, his college years, as well as the early days of his career in Los Angeles' famed Comedy Store. What you will read here is that Marc Maron is actually a very spiritual guy--don't laugh, it's true. At one point he actually meditates. Reading this, one will see the drive behind his manic, neurotic comedy, see the gestation and formation of the themes behind it. It was a great ride, I dug it! There's your review, Marc, we good?

This one kept me reading, which is more than I can say for most of the books I (start to) read these days. I found myself asking "And then what happened?" Religiosity is an alien concept to me, so in my case there was a steep hill to climb to get and hold my interest. But that's not really what the book was about anyway, was it? What WAS it about, anyway? Drat, I just saw the requirement that you have to be at least 13 years old to submit a review. That is SO unfair!

If you are a fan of Marc Maron, you will enjoy this book. Some passages are well written with original vivid descriptions of Marc's interior process.

A great way to go back, see some of the bitter and in-denial Maron, but also experience biting wit and insight. uses the backdrop of his visit to Israel with wife as opportunity to riff about many favorite things he still muses on, life and the meaning of myth and religion. Enjoy the trip and read the book!

I have really gotten to know Maron through his podcast over the last 6 months and I really dig his take on things. Thought I would check out his book and really enjoyed. He is definitely a nutty dude, but real intense and funny. One of the best comedian memoirs out there, and there are a lot. This book really delves into the mind of a guy who has an extreme mind.

Marc Maron is a genius and a personal role model! If you like his podcasts, TV show, or stand up I highly recommend reading this! You won't be sorry!

I really enjoyed Mark Maron's book, 'Attempting Normal', and was looking forward to reading "The Jerusalem Syndrome". I haven't gotten through it yet, as I don't think it's as funny or as focused as "Attempting Normal". It has its funny parts, but maybe it's just a portrait of the still forming comedian Marc Maron, as I think the last couple of years have been very good for Mr. Maron, as I think he has truly found his voice as the somewhat annoyed but always very insightful, funny, intelligent social critic that is Marc Maron. I look forward to reading his next book, whatever that will be. His last few years as the creator and host of the W.T.F. podcast show his intelligence, wit and his curious mind, and his recent sitcom on IFC, "Maron" have branched out his talent, and I hope for continued success in his career.

Maron rules.

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